

REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.

The Switzerland County Board of Commissioners met in regular session pursuant to law and by being duly advertised.

Those present: commissioners: John Haskell, Mark Lohide, and Steve Lyons, the sheriff, Roy Leap, the county attorney, Wil Goering, the auditor, Gayle Rayles, and the commissioners' assistant, Bruce Williams.

The meeting was opened by Roy who also led the pledge of allegiance.

The minutes of the previous meeting of April 21st were approved with the following correction: In reference to the highway department: The sentence should read Bernard Haversperger of FPBH Incorporated presented a proposal for "site preparation" instead of design engineering. John made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

John made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

#1 Larry Tolbert – Tourism

Appeared later in the meeting.

#2 John McCarren – Property Complaint

Mr. McCarren has been to previous commissioners' meetings in reference to a complaint about a recent survey showing that a porch was built on a trailer on property adjoining his property and the porch is actually on his property.

He had pictures of the previous conditions and after the trash was removed.

Wil advised that the commissioners should not hear complaints unless there is a hearing since they act as the hearing officers. The hearing process was discussed but no action was taken.

#2 Carol Ann Armstrong – Upper Goose Creek Road

Ms. Armstrong wanted to know "why tear up the road" and that she had not been contacted prior to this being done. This in reference to the road changes that Hilltop Basic Resources had been approved by the county to do. Steve stated the blacktop base had been removed to be reused.

Wil stated that all property owners, on the affected, road had been notified by mail and notification was put in the local newspaper.

Hilltop's mining issues were also discussed.

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#3 *Connie Wallace – EMA*

Connie was not present.

#4 *Highway Department*

Chris Clerkin, highway superintendent, had a quote from Perry Asphalt that was turned in too late to be considered. He also had a quote for liquid calcium for dust control.

Chris had met with Terry Hall, not the councilman, who lives on Red Hog Pike, in reference to water erosion on his property.

He also spoke about damage to Aaron Bell's yard. This is due to the county's culvert discharging water onto his property. This could be corrected by installing 60 to 100 feet of 16 inch pipe to direct the water flow away from Mr. Bell's yard. John made a motion to install the pipe to fix the problem, seconded by Mark and all agreed.

Summer highway department temporary mowers were discussed. The mowers are to start next week, May 12th, and would be pad a maximum of \$7,000.00 for the summer mowing season. Mark is to hire Earl Bowling, John is to hire Gary Scott, and Steve will advise later as to who he will hire.

#5 *Land Purchase*

Realtor Teresa Lyons spoke about the county purchasing the old Burton property at 212 West Pike Street. Attorney Ron Hocker had purchased this property at a 2013 sheriff's sale.

Teresa had 2 appraisals done in 2011. The average of the 2 was \$29,450.00.

Matt Hocker would like to sell the property to the county but at least 2 appraisals are required. There has been one appraisal done by Jeff Thomas for an appraised amount of \$36,000.00 and another one will be done.

The county cannot pay, by statute, more than the average of the 2 appraisals. Steve asked Wil if there was a conflict of interest in reference to Teresa Lyons doing the paperwork. Wil said "no" since she had worked on it when the county wanted to acquire it in 2011; prior to Steve being elected a commissioner.

The council will meet on May 7th at 4:30 p.m. in reference to this issue pending the commissioners' approval. After some discussion, Mark made a motion to purchase the property, seconded by Steve and motion carried with John voting "no".

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#6 Other Business

SIRPC grant letter: Gayle gave the commissioners information regarding the deadlines for grant applications as a follow-up to a discussion at the March joint meeting.

FEMA letter: Gayle gave the commissioners a letter from FEMA regarding their approval of our amended flood plain maps ordinance.

Courthouse gutter cleaning: Bruce is to contact Travis Miller and see if he would inspect the gutters. There was a discussion regarding gutter shields.

SRI tax sale contract: John made a motion to sign the tax sale contract with SRI, seconded by Mark and all agreed. They have handled the county's tax sales in the past.

Shred event: Gayle brought up the idea of having a shred event for the residents of Switzerland County to be able to have their documents shredded free of charge. Cintas charges \$250.00 per hour with no per pound fees. The commissioners agreed to pay for 1 hour. Gayle is to see if any businesses would contribute to this event.

Kids playing on county property: The commissioners discussed children playing in the parking lot at the annex. After some discussion no action was taken.

#7 Larry Tolbert – Tourism

Larry spoke about upcoming events that tourism has planned and some unnamed issues that the board was working on.

Steve requested that someone on the tourism board come to a commissioners' meeting each quarter.

The spring and fall fishing tournaments were discussed.

#8 East Enterprise Sewer District Contract

There was a question as to who should sign the contract with Land Works for the study they will be doing for the EERSD since the council has agreed to pay for it. Wil stated that the sewer board members need to sign the contract.

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Mark wanted to thank Steve Auxier and Chris Clerkin for their work during the spring clean-up. Steve worked Saturday and Chris worked Sunday.

Mark requested a “punch list” for the trash ordinance to better explain the process when there is a complaint or issue. Wil is to compose a list.

With no further business to come before the board, John made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mark and all agreed. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Attest: _____
Gayle A. Rayles, Auditor
Switzerland County, Indiana